

Boxes for the Brave, October 2014

Providing Food Boxes to Our Active Duty Military on Deployment

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Overview

Thank you for joining Councilmember Bridger Kimball in supporting members of the armed forces currently deployed around the world by supporting Councilmember Kimball's Boxes for the Brave program. Below are answers to commonly asked questions with answers supplied in conjunction with our Blue Star Mom Partners.

Can I just send any food?

No, there are many packaging restrictions, heat issues, safety, and even some cultural issues. Please review our Boxes for the Brave Instruction Page dated October 2014.

Does it matter where they are stationed?

Yes, if someone is stationed at a forward outpost, they will need different things than someone on a Navy vessel, or someone stationed at a major air base. Unless your service member has given you a detailed list of the items she/he desires, we recommend discussing your shopping list with Tracy Davis of the Blue Stare Moms. Tracy can tell you what types of items are most valued based on the service member's assignment.

Does summer or winter really matter?

Yes, not only with food, chocolate melts, but with toiletries that leak or separate inside the packages. Please consult with Tracy Davis if you are shipping in the summer or to extreme climates.

What is the best way to ship?

Everyone has had the best luck with the US Post Office Large Flat Rate Domestic Box. It looks small but can be packed with over \$130 worth of snacks (lots of Jerky). You can stop by the Maricopa Post Office and pick up a box for free. While you are at the Post Office, don't forget the shipping label and Form 2976-A. Tape the bottom and then take it with you to the market so you can test fit items. Buy a large bag of Jolly Ranchers to use as edible packing peanuts (that's a Tracy Tip). If you are one of the first 50 people to bring your food box (UNSEALED) to City Hall, we will ship the box for you, courtesy of Councilmember Kimball and the Boxes for the Brave program. For more information on shipping see our Boxes for the Brave Instruction Page dated October 2014.

What if I don't know the full APO/FOP?

This is so important! If you don't know or get this wrong, your box will never reach its destination or make it back too you! If you have questions related to APO/FOP addresses, please contact Tracy Davis of our Blue Star Moms partners. She can help.

What if I can't afford \$100 of Food?

The Blue Star Moms operate a small scale food/clothing bank for food boxes. If you have a loved one overseas and you can contribute something, Tracy says she will make it work. Please contact Tracy Davis at the address below

What if I don't know any service members but would like to help out?

The Maricopa Blue Star Moms have a list of active duty Maricopa residents and work with many groups and nonprofit organizations to send out food boxes. Please contact Tracy Davis at the address below and she will be able to find a way for you to make a difference in support of our active duty troops!

I have a service member I would like to send a food box to but I don't know where to start?

Please, by all means contact Tracy Davis below she is a dedicated volunteer and would be happy to help you through the process!

In Conclusion

The Maricopa Blue Start Moms have shipped dozens of food boxes to service members deployed around the world, under all conditions, from the deserts of Iraq, to Navy vessels patrolling the Pacific and military bases big and small. If this is your first time preparing a food box, have something special you are trying to accomplish, or just want to make sure your service members gets a box that will have what he or she needs (and is still in usable condition!), we encourage you to contact the Blue Star Moms and take advantage of what they have learned through trial and error.

To contact the Maricopa Blue Star Moms as part of the Boxes for the Brave Partnership please call:

Tracy Davis, Chapter President

Phone: (520) 709-0539

Email: maricopaaz7pres@gmail.com

Website: maricopabluestarmothers.com